(b) whether there has been an upsurge in imports in cargo at IGI Airport of obsolete gastroscopes, colonoscopes and duodenoscopes through under invoicing and submission of fake chartered engineers certificates from the original shipper itself; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to verify the actual value and date of manufacture by cross checking with the authorized dealers of such companies for future imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Rural credit package

1381. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government/Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are looking forward to devise schemes to promote cultivation of cash crops with a rural credit package;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the scheme;

(c) if not, whether Government while designing the scheme, would create a built-in-mechanism to address the disasters like drought, flood, earthquake, failure of crops due to pests and the inability of the farmers to repay the loans due to impaired earning;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Government has announced a package ofmeasures on June 18, 2004 to double the flow of credit to agriculture and allied activities in the next three years. The benefits of the package announced are also available to farmers cultivating cash crops. The package also envisage the following relief measures to farmers:

1. Debt restructuring/reschedulement and fresh loan to farmers affected by natural calamities;
2. One Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme for Small and Marginal Farmers;

3. Fresh finance for farmers whose earlier debts have been settled through compromise or write-offs;

4. Relief measures for farmers indebted to non-institutional lenders.

(c) to (e) RBI had issued standing guidelines to banks for providing relief in areas affected by natural calamities with a view to allowing greater discretion to banks to decide upon the quantum of relief assistance to be provided to the affected farmers. These guidelines permit banks to convert/reschedule loans in the event of natural calamity for periods ranging from 3 to 9 years depending upon the successive crop failure/ intensity of damage to crops, grants fresh crop loans to affected farmers, convert principal as well as interest due on the existing loans, not to compound interest in respect of loans converted/rescheduled, relaxations in security and margin norms, etc. Consequent on the announcement made by the Government on 18.6.2004 to double the flow of agricultural loans in the next three years, RBI has issued guidelines to banks to implement the package which *inter-alia* provides for debt restructuring/ rescheduling and fresh loan to farmers, affected by natural calamities.

Functioning of Governor of R.B.I.

1382. SHRIV. HANUMANTHARAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of qualifications sought by Government in appointing the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) whether Government have any means to remove a Governor for acts of omission and commission and sheer inefficiency; and

(c) to what extent Government watch the functioning of the Governor of the RBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Section 8(1)(a) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 provides that the Central Board of Reserve